**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a probe device in a broadband wireless system, the method comprising:

receiving a message;

processing the message to determine channel information ~~that indicates performance~~ describing use of each of a plurality of channels in the broadband wireless system by each of a plurality of users; and

storing the channel information in a memory in the probe device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the channels are upstream.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the channels are downstream.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the message is a credit that allows usage of one of the channels.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the message indicates a completion of usage of one of the channels.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to a switch in the broadband wireless system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to an upstream manager in the broadband wireless system.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to a downstream manager in the broadband wireless system.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises determining a state of one of the channels.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the state is polling.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the state is dedicated.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the state is idle.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising determining a time in the state.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises monitoring a number of bytes transmitted.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises monitoring a number of messages transmitted during a state of one of the channels.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a state of one of the channels.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a change in a state of one of the channels.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a number of bytes transmitted.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a number of messages transmitted.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a time in a state of one of the channels.

21. (Currently Amended) A software product for operating a probe device in a broadband

wireless system, the software product comprising:

probe device software operational when executed by a processor to direct the processor to receive a message, process the message to determine channel information ~~that indicates performance~~ describing use of each of a plurality of channels in the broadband wireless system by each of a plurality of users, and store the channel information in a memory in the probe device; and

a software storage medium operational to store the probe device software.

22. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the channels are upstream.

23. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the channels are downstream.

24. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the message is a credit that allows usage of one of the channels.

25. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the message indicates a completion of usage of one of the channels.

26. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device is connected to a switch in the broadband wireless system.

27. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device is connected to an upstream manager in the broadband wireless system.

28. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device is connected to a downstream manager in the broadband wireless system.

29. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device software is operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to determine a state of one of the channels.

30. (Original) The software product of claim 29 wherein the state is polling.

31. (Original) The software product of claim 29 wherein the state is dedicated.

32. (Original) The software product of claim 29 wherein the state is idle.

33. (Original) The software product of claim 29 wherein the probe device software is operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to determine a time in the state.

34. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device software is operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to monitor a number of bytes transmitted.

35. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device software is operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to monitor a number of messages transmitted during a state of one of the channels.

36. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the channel information comprises a state of one of the channels.

37. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the channel information comprises a change in a state of one of the channels.

38. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the channel information comprises a number of bytes transmitted.

39. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the channel information comprises a number of messages transmitted.

40. (Original) The software product of claim 21 wherein the channel information comprises a

time in a state of one of the channels.

41. (Currently Amended) A probe device for operating a probe device in a broadband wireless system, the probe device comprising:

an interface configured to transfer a message; and

a processor connected to the interface and configured to receive a message, process the message to determine channel information ~~that indicates performance~~ describing use of each of a plurality of channels in the broadband wireless system by each of a plurality of users, and store the channel information in a memory in the probe device.

42. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channels are upstream.

43. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channels are downstream.

44. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the message is a credit that allows usage of one of the channels.

45. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the message indicates a completion of usage of one of the channels.

46. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the probe device is connected to a switch in the broadband wireless system.

47. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the probe device is connected to an upstream manager in the broadband wireless system.

48. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the probe device is connected to a downstream manager in the broadband wireless system.

49. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the processor is configured to determine a state of one of the channels.

50. (Original) The probe device of claim 49 wherein the state is polling.

51. (Original) The probe device of claim 49 wherein the state is dedicated.

52. (Original) The probe device of claim 49 wherein the state is idle.

53. (Original) The probe device of claim 49 wherein the processor is configured to determine a time in the state.

54. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the processor is configured to monitor a number of bytes transmitted.

55. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the processor is configured to monitor a number of messages transmitted during a state of one of the channels.

56. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a state of one of the channels.

57. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a change in a state of one of the channels.

58. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a number of bytes transmitted.

59. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a number of messages transmitted.

60. (Original) The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a time in a state of one of the channels.